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Département à
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Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.
02250725.5

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

FUJI PHOTO FILM CO., LTD.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☒ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☒ Abstract ☒ Title ☐ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☒ The following figure will be published with the abstract, ~~since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.~~

Figure:

- ☐ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



EPO Form 1507 02.93



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1,5-16

Independent Claims 1 and 16:

Claim 1 defines a multicolor image-forming material comprising at least four thermal transfer sheets each having a different color, and a recording area being defined by a product of a length of 515 mm or more and width of 728 mm or more, and said thermal transfer sheets are larger in each of a length-wise and a width-wise direction than the image-receiving sheet by 20 mm to 80 mm, and the actual printing paper is larger in each of a length-wise and a width-wise direction than the image-receiving sheet by 5 mm to 100 mm.

Claim 16 defines a method for forming a multicolor image using the image-forming material of claim 1, wherein the transfer sheets have at least four colors including yellow, magenta, cyan and black.

2. Claims: 2-4,17

Independent Claims 2 and 17:

Claim 2 defines a multicolor image-forming material, wherein the dynamic frictional force between an image-receiving surface on the image-receiving sheet and a back surface on the opposite side thereof is 30 gf to 120 gf.

Claim 17 defines a method for forming a multicolor image using the multicolor image-forming material of claim 2, wherein the transfer sheets have at least four colors including yellow, magenta, cyan and black.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
E	EP 1 226 972 A (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD) 31 July 2002 (2002-07-31) * page 4, line 15 - page 5, line 51 * * page 10, line 56 - page 11, line 6 * * page 12, line 5 - line 7 * * page 14, line 46 - page 15, line 16 * * page 16, line 15 - line 34 * ---	1,7-16	B41M5/34 B41M5/40 B41M5/38 B41M5/00
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A	EP 0 696 518 A (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD) 14 February 1996 (1996-02-14) * page 3, line 43 - line 49 * * page 5, line 23 - line 57 * ---	1-17	
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Y	EP 0 556 797 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 25 August 1993 (1993-08-25) * page 7, line 12 - line 20 * * tables 1,2 * ---	2,3,17	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 8 April 2003	Examiner Patosuo, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	EP 0 556 796 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 25 August 1993 (1993-08-25) * page 6, line 20 - line 28 * * table 1 * -----	2,3,17	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 02 25 0725

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

08-04-2003

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